

Justice Iredell, of the Supreme Court, (vol. iii, Elliott's debates,) says:

"Our government is founded on much nobler principles. The people are known with certainty to have originated it themselves. Those in power are their servants and agents; and *the people without their consent*, may remodel the government whenever they think proper, not merely because it is oppressively exercised, but *because they think another form is more conducive to their welfare.*"—[Story's Commentaries, vol. i, page 326]

Hamilton (Federalist, No. 22,) says:

"The fabric of American empire ought to rest on the solid basis of the *consent of the people*. The streams of national power ought to flow immediately from that pure original fountain of all legitimate authority."

Jay, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, says:

"At the revolution, the sovereignty devolved on the people, and they are truly the sovereigns of the country; but they are sovereigns without subjects, (unless the African slaves among us may be so called,) and have none to govern but themselves; the citizens of America are equal as fellow-citizens, and as joint tenants in the sovereignty."—[2 Dallas' Reports, 419.]

Marshall, chief justice United States Supreme Court, says:

"It has been said that the people had already surrendered all their powers to the State sovereignties, and had nothing more to give. But, surely, the question whether they may resume and modify the powers granted to government, does not remain to be settled in this country. [4 Wheaton's Reports, 405.]

Justice Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Convention of 1787, which framed the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards a judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, says:

"Of the right of a majority of the whole people to change their government at will, there is no doubt."—[1 Wilson, 418; 1 Tucker's Black. Comm. 165, cited 324 p., vol i, Story's Comm.]

Again he says:

"Perhaps some politician, who has not considered with sufficient accuracy, our political systems, would answer in our government, the supreme power was vested in the Constitution. This opinion approaches a step nearer to the truth, (than the supposition that it resides in the Legislatures,) but does not reach it. The truth is, that, in our government, the supreme, absolute, and uncontrollable power *remains* in the people. As our Constitutions are superior to our legislatures, so the people are superior to our Constitutions. Indeed, the superiority in this last instance is much greater; for the people possess, over our Constitutions, control in act as well as right."—[Wilson's Works, vol. iii, p. 292.]

Again he says:

"The consequence is, that the people may change

the Constitution *whenever and however* they please. This is a right of which no positive institutions can deprive them.

"These important truths, are far from being merely speculative; we, at this moment speak and deliberate under their immediate and benign influence. To the operation of these truths, we are to ascribe the scene, hitherto unparalleled, which America now exhibits to the world, a gentle, a peaceful, a voluntary and a deliberate transition from one Constitution of government to another. (from the confederation to the Constitution of the United States.) In other parts of the world, the idea of revolution in government is by a mournful and indissoluble associations, connected with the idea of wars, and all the calamities attendant on war.

"But happy experience teaches us to view such revolutions in a very different light—to consider them as progressive steps in improving the knowledge of government, and increasing the happiness of society and mankind.

"Oft have I viewed with silent pleasure and admiration, the force and prevalence through the United States of this principle—that the supreme power resides in the people, and that they never part with it. It may be called the *panacea* in politics. If the error be in the Legislature, it may be corrected by the Constitution: if in the Constitution, it may be corrected by the people. There is a remedy, therefore, for every distemper in government, if the people are not wanting to themselves."—[Wilson's Works, vol. iii, p. 293.]

Again, he says:

"A revolution principle certainly is, and certainly should be, taught as a principle of the Constitution of the United States, and of every State of the Union. This revolution principle—that the sovereign power residing in the people, they may change their Constitution and Government whenever they please—is not a principle of discord, rancor or war; it is a principle of melioration, contentment and peace."—[Wilson's Lectures, vol. 1., p. 21.]

And, again:

"A proper regard to the *original*, and *inherent*, and *continued* power of the *society to change its Constitution*, will prevent mistakes and mischief of a very different kind. It will prevent giddy inconsistency; it will prevent unthinking rashness; it will prevent unmanly langor."—[Wilson, vol. 1, p. 420.]

Justice Patterson, of the United States Supreme Court, says:

"The Constitution is the work of the people themselves, in their original, sovereign and unlimited capacity." "A Constitution is the form of Government delineated by the mighty hand of the people," is "paramount to the will of the Legislature," and is liable only "to be revoked or altered by those who made it."—[2 Dallas' Rep. p. 304.]

The Supreme Court of the United States, through Judge Marshall, says:

"That the people have an original right to es-